

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2513

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: TEXT OF UNIFIL REPORT ON ACCESS TO ENCLAVES

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT ERSKINE SENT TO UNNY SEPTEMBER 11
REGARDING CURRENT SITUATION OF UNIFIL
ACCESS TO ENCLAVES AREA ON SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"A MEETING WAS HELD AT METULLA ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1978 BETWEEN
UNIFIL REPRESENTATIVES AND LT. COLONELS GAL AND HAMIZRACHI
FROM IDF, AND HADDAD, TO DISCUSS FURTHER DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL
IN THE ENCLAVES. THE DISCUSSION WAS CONCERNED WITH PRACTICAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNIFIL'S TAKING OVER NEW POSITIONS AND ACHIEVING
FULL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. REGARDING PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE NYQ 1246, PRIETO TODAY, 11 SEPTEMBER,
REITERATED TO BRIG. GENERAL LIVERAN, WHO IS THE NEW SENIOR IDF
LIAISON OFFICER IN REPLACEMENT OF COL. LEVINSON, THOSE
PRINCIPLES MENTIONED IN THE MESSAGE AND PARTICULARLY

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STRESSED THAT UNIFIL DOES NOT ACCEPT FROM ISRAEL IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON ANY ROLE EXCEPT PROVISION OF GOOD OFFICES AND WILL NOT
ACCEPT ANY CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PREJUDICE FULL DEPLOYMENT.

3. "AS A RESULT OF ABOVE MENTIONED MEETING, UNIFIL BEGAN
DEPLOYMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF 10 SEPTEMBER INTO FIVE NEW
POSITIONS:

A. NEPBATT: ONE POSITION OCCUPIED IN EAST OUTSKIRTS OF MARYAYOUN AMR 2061-3076 STRENGTH ONE OFFICER AND FOUR MEN FROM NEPBATT PLUS ONE OFFICER FROM NORBATT. IRISHBATT: TWO POSITIONS OCCUPIED. FIRST, BENI HAYYAN AMR 1957-2942. STRENGTH TEN. SECOND, TALLUSAH AMR 1956-2935. STRENGTH TEN.

B. TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED TODAY 11 SEPTEMBER. FIRST, NEPBATT POSITION NORTH-WEST OF KAFAR KELLA AMR 2008-2984. STRENGTH TEN. SECOND, IRISHBATT POSITION AT BLIDA AMR 1983-2829, STRENGTH TEN.

C. THE QUESTION OF ONE MORE POSITION FOR IRISHBATT IN AYNATA-BEINT HAVAYL AREA AMR 191-281 REMAINS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. THE POSITION ALREADY OFFERED WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO UNIFIL AS IT WAS LOCATED IN CENTRE OF VILLAGE ADJOINING MOSQUE. FURTHERMORE THE LOCAL MUKTAR AND SOME RELIGIOUS LEADERS SUPPORTED BY APPROX. 40 VILLAGERS INFORMED UNIFIL OFFICERS ON 10 SEPTEMBER THAT THEY DID NOT WANT PEOPLE OF ANOTHER RELIGION LOCATED IN THEIR VILLAGE. THIS IS IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY SHIDIAK AND A NEW DEVELOPMENT. IT IS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH THIS SENTIMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN EXPRESSION. UNIFIL FEELING IS THIS INCIDENT WAS QUOTE STAGE-MANAGED UNQUOTE BY SHIDIAK FORCES. HOWEVER, NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED TO ESTABLISH A UNIFIL PRESENCE IN THIS AREA.

4. "IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THESE FIVE NEW UNIFIL POSITIONS,
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LIKE ALL OTHER POSITIONS MAINTAINED BY THE INTERIM FORCE IN THE ENCLAVES, HAVE LIMITED TACTICAL UTILITY AND ARE BASICALLY SYMBOLIC. NO OPERATIONAL PATROLS ARE PERMITTED AND NO CONTROL OVER LOCAL POPULATION IS ALLOWED. MOREOVER, MOVEMENT IS RESTRICTED TO FOLLOWING ROADS:

A. NAQOURA EAST TO MARWAHIN-AYNAATA-BLIDA THEN NORTH TO EL ADEISSE.

B. BAYT YAHUN SOUTH TO ANYATA - EAST TO BLIDA AND NORTH TO EL ADEISSE.

C. ETT TAIBA - EAST TO MATULLA.

AS OF 1100Z HOURS MAJOR ROAD BLOCK WEST OF EBEL ES SAQI STILL REMAINS IN PLACE DESPITE ASSURANCES THAT MINE WOULD BE CLEARED THIS MORNING. MOVEMENT ON THESE ROADS IS CONFINED TO LOGISTICAL TRAFFIC WHICH MUST BE CO-ORDINATED WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK THROUGH IDF. YOU WILL NOTE THAT THESE RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 13 JUNE.

5. "AS TO FUTURE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT, IDF REPRESENTATIVES, HADDAD AND SHIDIAK HAVE ORALLY STATED THAT IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR UNIFIL TO ACQUIRE MORE POSITIONS WITHIN ENCLAVES. HOWEVER WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS OBTAINING PROGRESSIVELY OPERATIONAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FURTHER DEPLOYMENT THROUGH CONTACTS WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

6. "RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT ALSO HAVE BEEN IMPOSED BY ARMED ELEMENTS ON WADI JILU AMR 179-294, MAHRUAN AMR 182-291 ROAD. IN OUR OPINION, ARMED ELEMENTS ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT POSITIONS IN VALLAGES OF MAHRUNAH AMR 182-291, MAZRA-AF-AL MUSSRIF AMR 181-291 AND AL BAYYAD AMR 181-289. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED TO YOU.

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7. "AS TO THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIFIL SITUATION IN THE ENCLAVES, WE FEEL THAT NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT A MORE MEANINGFUL DEPLOYMENT AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT CANNOT BE OBTAINED WITHOUT STRONG PRESSURE FROM APPROPRIATE HIGHEST LEVEL AUTHORITIES. AS FOR THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE ARMED ELEMENTS, WE FIND THAT THE CO-OPERATION EXTENDED BY BEIRUT HEADQUARTERS IS NOT REFLECTED BY ALL LOCAL LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM TAKE A HARD LINE." END TEXT.
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